



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. III-02-050

September 6, 2002

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NRC OVERSIGHT PANEL TO HOLD THREE MEETINGS ON DAVIS-BESSE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD DAMAGE IN OAK HARBOR, OH

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold two meetings on Tuesday, September 17, and one meeting on September 18, in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

The September 17 meetings will review the status and adequacy of recent activities at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station as a result of the corrosion damage to the reactor vessel head. The September 18 meeting will review the plant's proposed plan for correcting the organizational and human performance issues presented to the NRC during the public meeting of August 15, 2002. The plant, which has been shut down since February 16, is operated by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company.

SEPTEMBER 17 MEETINGS

Both September 17 meetings will be at the Oak Harbor High School Auditorium, 11661 West State Route 163, in Oak Harbor.

The first meeting will begin at 2 p.m. (EDT), when the NRC oversight panel, set up to coordinate the agency's activities associated with the corrosion damage to the reactor vessel head, will meet with utility officials to discuss the status of repairs at the plant and upcoming activities. The public is invited to observe the business portion of the meeting and will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions of the NRC staff before the meeting is adjourned.

The second meeting will begin at 7 p.m. (EDT) to update the public on NRC's activities related to the reactor vessel head degradation and will provide a summary of the earlier meeting. The public will be invited to ask questions and make comments.

SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING

The third meeting will be held at 9 a.m. (EDT) at Davis-Besse's Energy Education Center, 5501 North State Route 2, in Oak Harbor.

The meeting will focus on the licensee's proposed plan to address management, organizational effectiveness and human performance issues that were discussed during the August 15 public meeting in Lisle, Illinois, as the root causes that are believed to have led to the degradation of the reactor pressure vessel head.

Transcripts of all three meetings will be posted on the NRC's web site.

The NRC oversight panel, created on April 29, includes NRC management and staff from its Region III office in Lisle, Illinois, the NRC Headquarters office in Rockville, Maryland, and the NRC Resident Inspector Office at the Davis-Besse site.

Documents on the Davis-Besse corrosion issue, including meeting transcripts and further details on NRC's oversight panel activities, are posted on the NRC's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/vessel-head-degradation.html>.

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